

**MINUTES OF THE
EDUCATION INTERIM COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, July 19, 2006 – 2:00 p.m. – Room W135 House Building

Members Present:

Rep. Margaret Dayton, House Chair
Sen. Patrice M. Arent
Sen. D. Chris Buttars
Sen. Karen Hale
Rep. Ron Bigelow
Rep. John Dougall
Rep. James R. Gowans
Rep. David L. Hogue
Rep. Kory M. Holdaway
Rep. Bradley T. Johnson
Rep. Carol Spackman Moss
Rep. Merlynn T. Newbold
Rep. Jennifer M. Seelig
Rep. LaWanna "Lou" Shurtliff
Rep. Stephen H. Urquhart

Members Absent:

Sen. Howard A. Stephenson, Senate Chair
Sen. Mark B. Madsen
Sen. David L. Thomas
Rep. LaVar Christensen
Rep. James A. Ferrin
Rep. Gregory H. Hughes

Staff Present:

Ms. Constance C. Steffen, Policy Analyst
Mr. Phillip V. Dean, Policy Analyst
Mr. Dee S Larsen, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Glenda S. Whitney, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Committee Business

Chair Dayton called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m. Sen. Stephenson, Sen. Madsen, Rep. Christensen, and Rep. Hughes were excused from attending the meeting. She noted that Sen. Stephenson will present an agenda item electronically, but since the Legislature has not adopted rules to allow for electronic meetings, he will not vote on any item, count in determining a quorum, or be paid per diem.

MOTION: Rep. Dougall moved to approve the minutes of the June 21, 2006 meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. Hogue was absent for the vote.

2. No Child Left Behind Reauthorization Options

Supt. Ray Timothy, Associate Superintendent, Utah State Office of Education, updated the Committee on NCLB (No Child Left Behind). He noted that State Superintendent Patti Harrington was in Washington, D.C. meeting with state school chief officers discussing NCLB. Supt. Timothy noted other states' dissatisfaction with NCLB.

Rep. Margaret Dayton noted that at the June meeting, committee members were requested to submit to the House Chair or Superintendent Harrington their comments on five options regarding the reauthorization of the federal law, NCLB. Rep. Dayton asked committee members who have not submitted comments on the recommended options to do so, and indicated that this issue will be discussed at the next committee meeting.

3. Acceptance of Credits Earned at Accredited Educational Institutions

Mr. David Stoddard, Executive Director, Riverton Feeder System, Jordan School District, explained that Superintendent Barry Newbold could not attend the meeting and asked that Mr. Stoddard address the Committee in his absence. Mr. Stoddard discussed Jordan School District's policies and practices regarding the acceptance of credits from schools outside the district.

Supt. Timothy responded to committee members' questions and clarified state statutes and rules on acceptance of credits.

Chair Dayton noted that aspects of Jordan School District's policy appear to be contrary to state statutes and rules of the State Board of Education.

4. Teacher Supply and Demand Study

Supt. Timothy distributed a handout and a compact disc, "Utah Educator Supply and Demand Study 2004-2005." He reviewed the findings of the teacher supply and demand study.

Ms. Deb Esclante, Utah State University, presented an overview from the handout that Supt. Timothy distributed and focused on growth characteristics and sources of current educator supply.

Dr. Nick Eastman, Professor, Utah State University, responded to questions regarding this issue.

5. Utah Basic Skills Competency Test

Sen. Howard Stephenson asked the Committee to consider whether public school students should be required to pass the UBSCT (Utah Basic Skills Competency Test) to obtain a high school diploma.

Dr. Frank Shaw, Executive Director, Copper Hills Feeder System, and former Director of Assessment, Jordan School District, briefed the Committee on the JCT (Jordan Competency Test), which was replaced by the UBSCT. The JCT was a test of basic skills that students were required to pass to obtain a diploma. Special education students and English language learners were exempt from the testing requirement.

President William A. Sederburg, Utah Valley State College, distributed a handout and presented a slide presentation, "Utah Valley State College Improving Achievement and College Success." He discussed the process for assessing high school students and recommended that the Legislature consider requiring all high school students take the ACT, which can indicate a student's readiness for higher education.

Sen. Stephenson suggested that the Committee explore alternative methods of assessing high school students' skills in lieu of the UBSCT. He indicated that this issue will be discussed at the October or November meeting.

Supt. Timothy commented on the recommendation to administer an assessment other than the UBSCT.

6. Other Items / Adjourn

MOTION: Rep. Dougall moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Buttars, Rep. Bigelow, and Rep. Hogue absent for the vote.

Chair Dayton adjourned the meeting at 4:39 p.m.